

## ***FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET***

**Meeting Date:** May 22, 2014

**Agenda Item:** HB 454 Gillett Ranch Public Elk Hunting Access Agreement

**Division:** Wildlife

**Action Needed:** Proposed

**Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation:** 10 minutes

### **Background**

FWP is proposing a new Hunting Access Agreement on the Gillett Ranch under House Bill 454. Under the provisions of 87-2-513 MCA, MFWP requests that the Commission grant authority to FWP to issue the following either-sex elk permits for use only on land enrolled in the Gillett Ranch Public Elk Hunting Access Agreement: a) one 410-22 either-sex elk permit to Glen Gillett (or designated family member); b) four 410-22 either-sex elk permits to hunters randomly selected from the list of unsuccessful applicants for 410-20 either-sex elk permits.

Approximately 1,040 acres of private land will be enrolled in HD 410. The four hunters who receive 410-22 permits valid only on this enrolled land may hunt for either-sex elk on any day they call and request permission. Also, one to two hunters per day who possess a valid license will be allowed to hunt for antlerless elk. There will be no restrictions on the number of days that Mr. Gillett can hunt the enrolled property. Walk-in only access (non-motorized use) will be permitted on the enrolled property; however, successful hunters who do not wish to pack out their elk may contact Mr. Gillett for assistance in retrieval.

### **Public Involvement Process & Results**

No public involvement has been solicited at this time for this Hunting Access Agreement. The public comment period for any proposal approved for public comment will run through 5 p.m., Monday June 23, with final action at the July Commission meeting.

### **Alternatives and Analysis**

If approved, this agreement provides for additional elk hunting opportunity on HD 410. If this agreement is not approved the landowner may choose to prohibit public hunting or lease the property to an outfitter.

### **Agency Recommendation & Rationale**

Given the opportunity to expand elk hunting access, FWP recommends the Commission approve this proposed hunting access agreement for public comment.

### **Proposed Motion**

I move the Commission approve for public comment the proposed Gillett Ranch hunting access agreement as presented by FWP.